

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY **Bulgaria** REPORT

SUBJECT **The Balkan Cotton Spinning Factory in Gabrovo** DATE DISTR. **22 August 1955**

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The Balkan Cotton Spinning Factory is located south of Gabrovo on the east side of the Gabrovo-Toplesh (M42-48, E25-14) road, approximately one kilometer from the Shivachevo bridge. This factory was constructed many years before 9 September 1944 and consisted of one 3-story building, 80x30 meters in size, with a concrete roof. In 1952, a new 3-story building, approximately 120x80 meters in size, was constructed adjacent to the old building. At the same time, a 4-story building, 80x30x35 meters in size, was constructed approximately five meters from the north side of the factory. An iron bridge connects the third floor of this building with the old factory building. A 3-story cotton storage building, 50x20 meters in size, has been constructed approximately eight meters east of the above 4-story building.
2. Before the factory was enlarged, it had two carding machines and 37 old, model "Hartman", combing machines. Each of these machines was capable of making one bundle of processed cotton from 35 kilograms of unprocessed cotton, in one hour. There were also three "stretching" machines which turned these bundles into wicks. there were approximately 300 workers.
3. the factory now has 36,000 spindles, employs approximately 2000 workers, 50 or 60 of which are administrative personnel, and is the largest textile factory in Gabrovo. the capacity of the factory to be 15 tons of cotton daily, on two 8-hour shifts and one night shift of six hours. This factory processes cotton from the USSR and China, as well as from Bulgaria. Artificial cotton (sellvolls) is imported from abroad and arrives in bales of 200 kilograms each. This artificial cotton is mixed with the real cotton.

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4. The first floor of the new building is called the "preparatory section". In May 1953, 84 East German "Textima" carding machines, model 1952-53, were installed by East German specialists in this section. Each machine has a capacity of 35 kilograms of cotton per hour, and supposedly could produce 12,000 to 16,000 meters of wick in an eight hour period.
5. The second floor of the factory is occupied by spinning machines; the make, model, and number of which is unknown.
6. The factory owns an old Ford truck, but the biggest part of the cotton is transported from the factory in carts, provided by the local cart cooperative.
7. During the winter of 1953-54 the power conditions were very bad; the electric current was switched off hourly for 10 to 15 minute periods. For this reason, the workers earned only 150-200 leva per month, instead of their regular 500-600 leva when they had the power and could fulfill their norms.
8. The majority of the workers come from Gabrovo or the neighboring villages, which are connected with the factory by regular bus service. Quarters for both male and female workers are available to those who come from more distant places.
9. The factory is guarded by seven or eight militiamen, under the command of a militia sergeant. These men are quartered on the factory premises. A sentry is on duty, at the entrance gate, every hour of the day and night. This sentry checks the workers' cards, which are issued by the factory administration, as they enter the factory area to go to work.
10. One fireman is on duty for each work-shift of the factory.

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